

FOREIGN BROADCAST
INFORMATION SERVICE

MAY 5, 1961

01 (SUB FOR 05)

ARTIME STATEMENT

HAVANA IN SPANISH TO LATIN AMERICAN 0100 5 MAY 61 E

(TEXT) MANUEL ARTIME, CIVIL LEADER OF THE THWARTED MERCENARY INVASION FINANCED BY THE UNITED STATES, WHO WAS CAPTURED NEAR GIRON BEACH, SITE OF THE INVASION LANDINGS, HAS SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION, AND REVEAL ALL THE DETAILS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, NICARAGUA, AND GUATEMALA IN THE INVASION OF CUBA.

AFTER REVEALING THAT THE MERCENARY INVADERS HAD ALSO RECEIVED AID AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM ROMULO BETANCOURT, PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA, JOSE FIGUERES, FORMER PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA, AND LUIS MUNOZ MARIN, GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, ARTIME ADDED: "IT IS BEING SAID THAT AURELIANO SANCHEZ ARANGO HAD FULL SUPPORT FROM ROMULO BETANCOURT TO ORGANIZE AN EXPEDITION AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO." AURELIANO SANCHEZ ARANGO WAS THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION DURING THE GOVERNMENT OF CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS. HE HAD BEEN ACCUSED BY THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE ORTHODOX PARTY, EDUARDO CHIBAS, OF MISMANAGEMENT EDUCATION MINISTRY FUNDS. SANCHEZ ARANGO, A WELL KNOWN ORGANIZER OF INVASIONS, HAD PREPARED 11 INVASIONS DURING THE BATISTA DICTATORSHIP, BUT NOT ONE HAD MATERIALIZED. THE ONLY EXPEDITION PREPARED BY SANCHEZ ARANGO REACHED CUBA ON 4 JANUARY 1959, FOUR DAYS AFTER THE CUBAN PEOPLE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE REBEL ARMY HAD OVERTHROWN THE BATISTA DICTATORSHIP.

MANUEL ARTIME HAS MADE REFERENCE TO THE VISIT MADE TO THE RETALHUELO CAMP IN GUATEMALA BY COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES JOSE NINO CARDONA, ANTONIO VARRONA, AND OSCAR (LESTORIA) BETWEEN 8 AND 10 APRIL. DURING THEIR VISIT, THESE MEN SPOKE TO THE TROOPS AND ANNOUNCED THE FORTHCOMING DEPARTURE FOR CUBA. LATER, ARTIME ADDED THAT "THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAD TOLD THEM THAT THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY AIR FORCE HAD BEEN DESTROYED DURING THE BOMBINGS CARRIED OUT ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, 15 APRIL, BY PILOTS PAID BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

ARTIME SAID THE U.S. INSTRUCTORS WHO WERE ON SEVERAL SHIPS NEAR THE LANDING PLACE IN CUBA HAD TOLD HIM THAT AT THE SAME TIME THE ATTACK ON THE GIRON BEACH WAS BEING MADE, THREE MORE EXPEDITIONS WOULD LAND IN CUBA.

ARTIME CONCLUDED BY SAYING: "HAT HAS BEEN DONE TO THE BRIGADE HAS BEEN A REAL CRIME. OF COURSE, I AM NOT GOING TO SAY THAT I SYMPATHIZE WITH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT I WISH IT TO BE KNOWN THAT I HATE IMPERIALISM, WHICH, TO ITS LONG CHAIN OF OUTRAGES AND ATTACKS, HAS ADDED ONE MORE." THE CIVIL HEAD OF THE FRUSTRATED INVASION CONCLUDED: "LET US HOPE THAT THIS HAS BEEN THE LAST ONE."

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